

In view of the foregoing comments, claims 1, 7, and 12 are believed to be allowable over Russell. Claims 2-6, 8-11, and 13-20 depend from claims 1, 7, and 12, respectively, and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, 7, and 12, as set forth above. Higginbotham and Sullivan fail to cure the deficiencies in Russell, in that neither Higginbotham nor Sullivan disclose or teach a screen having *an outer screen plate with a plurality of holes*. Moreover, neither Higginbotham nor Sullivan disclose or teach a screen having *an end with a lower portion that is spaced apart from the end plates of the bushing body*. This feature allows current to flow through the end plates, improving thermal uniformity of the molten glass in the bushing by increasing the heat capacity near the end plates. Since none of the cited references disclose or teach a screen having *an outer screen plate with a plurality of holes* or *an end with a lower portion that is spaced apart from the end plates of the bushing body*, the rejection of the claims is improper. The claims should be allowable as written. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

#### New Claim

Claim 21 has been added. This claim recites a bushing having divergent surfaces and outer screen plate surfaces attached to tapered edges of the divergent surfaces. Each surface (i.e., the divergent surfaces and the outer screen plate surfaces) has holes therein. The holes are sized to prevent impurities from passing therethrough. Russell recites a melting chamber 52, not a bushing. A well-known distinction between a melting chamber and a bushing screen is set forth above. Although Russell discloses holes in the melting chamber, the holes are sized to retain preheated bodies in the chamber, *not to prevent impurities from passing therethrough*, as required by claim 21. Higginbotham and Sullivan disclose screens but neither disclose nor teach a screen having *an outer screen plate*, much less *an outer screen plate with a plurality of holes*. There is no motivation to combine the teaching of the end walls 56 of the "melting chamber" of Russell with the teaching of the "screens" of Higginbotham and Sullivan. In the absence

24903A

of such motivation, claim 21 should be allowable over the cited references. Favorable consideration of claim 21 is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments and above remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.